

COAT OF ARMS OF SWISS CONFEDERATION

DECEMBER 2 (legislative day, NOVEMBER 18), 1943.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. O'MAHONEY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 470]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill (S. 470) to implement article 28 of the convention signed at Geneva on July 27, 1929, relating to the use of the coat of arms of the Swiss Confederation for commercial or other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendments and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

As a contracting party to the Red Cross Convention signed at Geneva on July 27, 1929, the Government of the United States undertook to recommend to the Congress the enactment of such measures as may be necessary—

to prevent the use, by private persons or by organizations, of the coat of arms of the Swiss Confederation or of signs constituting an imitation thereof, whether as trade-marks, commercial labels, or portions thereof, or in any way contrary to commercial ethics, or under conditions wounding Swiss national pride.

Legislation which was designed to accomplish the purposes of this undertaking was recommended to and enacted by the Congress in 1936. This legislation, however, has proved inadequate in that it merely prevented use of the Swiss coat of arms by persons who had not used the insignia for a period of 10 years preceding the date of its enactment.

S. 470, as amended by the committee, would prohibit, after July 1, 1947, all use of the Swiss coat of arms as an insignia for any business or organization or for any trade or commercial purpose, except that persons who were entitled to use the insignia under the 1936 act are given an additional 3 years during which they may indicate in lettering that their products were formerly identified by the white cross. In addition thereto a 3-year period is provided to permit jobbers and retailers to dispose of labeled articles lawfully acquired by them.

This bill is similar in purpose and effect to S. 469 relating to the use of the symbol of the Red Cross. Attention is invited to this committee's report, dated November 15, 1943, Report No. 534, to accompany S. 469, which contains additional matter equally pertinent to a consideration of this bill.

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